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Canada

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For more information please visit: The International Scientific Cooperation website

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The Honourable Christian Paradis in Saint-Hyacinthe to Promote Collaboration with Spain

Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, January 3rd, 2008 - The Government of Canada is moving forward on its commitment to promote Canadian agricultural research as well as collaboration and investment between Canada and its European counterparts. The Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State for Agriculture, on behalf of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, visited the Food Research and Development Centre (FRDC) in Saint-Hyacinthe to discuss opportunities for investment and science and innovation collaboration between Canada and Spain.

"The Government of Canada is proud of the world class agricultural and agrifood research being conducted on our farms and in our labs," said Secretary of State Paradis. "That is why we are working to strengthen our scientific partnerships with industry and government, to improve science and technology exchanges, promote investment and increase Canada's influence on a global scale."

During his visit to St.Hyacinthe, the Secretary of State also took the opportunity to tour the FDRC and see AAFC's scientists in action. Established in 1987, the FDRC was the first AAFC research centre dedicated entirely to food processing.

AAFC research teams in St.Hyacinthe and across Canada collaborate to increase knowledge of food systems and foster innovation and growth in the Canadian food industry.

The Secretary of State is signing the livre d'or at the end of his visit: Dr. Christian Toupin, Research Director, FDRC; Dr. Gulshan Arora, Abiassa Inc.; Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau, AAFC; Mr. Alain Gauthier, Director General, Governors' Foundation; and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State, AAFC

Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State, AAFC; Mrs. Carole Morneau, Chief Liaison Office, Science and Trade; International Scientific Cooperation Bureau, AAFC; Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau, AAFC

Discussion and working session: Mr. Mark Quinlan, Director of Communications and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State, AAFC

Contact: Dr. Yvon Martel (YvonDr.Martel@agr.gc.ca)

AAFC Enhances Scientific Cooperation with INIA in Spain

Madrid, Spain, January 9, 2008 - Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

(AAFC) and the Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA) signed a Letter of Intent on agriculture and agri-food research interests as a further confirmation of cooperation between the two countries.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State (Agriculture) and Member of Parliament for Mégantic-L'Érable, and Mr. Miguel-Ángel Quintanilla Fisac, President of INIA in Spain, signed the Letter on behalf of their governments.

The Letter of Intent's objective is to facilitate the exchange of information and technical expertise between Canada and Spain. The document reflects each country's commitment to enhance its research capacities in order to protect the environment and promote sustainable agriculture development while strengthening bilateral trade relations.

This event marks another milestone in science and technology cooperation between Spain and Canada. Both countries agree that this collaboration is of mutual benefit and will provide additional means to build on each other's research experiences.

Mr. Miguel-Angel Quintanilla Fisac (President of INIA) and the Honourable Christian Paradis, Secretary of State, AAFC

Contact: Dr. Yvon Martel (YvonDr.Martel@agr.gc.ca)

INRA and AAFC: a Neverfailing Cooperation

Longstanding scientific cooperation with the INRA has always been very important as regards the protocol signed in 2005 with Ms. Marion Guillou INRA's president. Furthermore, France, along with the United States and China, is an important partner for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC).

Yearly exchanges of trainees and scientists attest to the partners' willingness to cooperate.

During the last meeting hold in INRA, last December 13, Dr. Yvon Martel and representatives from INRA pursue talks about their cooperation with organisations from other countries linked to France and Canada through mutual interests. Cooperation with the European Union and countries such as India, China and Spain is very important. INRA and AAC will further seek to jointly look to find new partners with common ground and scientific interests.

The use of bibliometrics to evaluate the amount and quality of research done by scientists was also discussed with Mr. Guy Riba. INRA already has a threeperson team working full-time in this area and Canada would be well advised to cooperate with them. In 2008, INRA will consider organizing a one-day workshop to discuss progress in the use of bibliometrics. Other countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States may also participate.

Mr. Michel Dodet, Mrs. Nathalie Corbeil, Dr. Yvon Martel, Mr. Guy Riba and Mr. Bernard Charpentier
Mr. Guy Riba and Dr. Yvon Martel

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The Minister Counsellor from the Chinese Embassy, Visited ISCB

On January 2, 2008, Mr. Jiang Shan, Minister Counsellor (Economic & Commercial Affairs) and Mr. Dong Tao, First Secretary both from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Canada officially visited AAFC headquarters and met with Dr. Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB). They had a broad discussion on agricultural science and innovation in support of commercialization and trade between Canada and China. Key projects linking science and trade are of mutual benefit to both countries. Dr. Zhou will help in the planning of science and innovation visits for commercial officers from the Chinese Embassy to venues such as the Saint-Hyacinthe Technopole (Science Park).

Mr. Dong Tao, Dr. Yvon Martel, Mr. Jiang Shan et Dr. Joe Zhou (missing: Mr. Shan He)

Contact: Dr. Joe Zhou (Joe.Zhou@agr.gc.ca)

Farewell to Dr. Aizheng Liang - First Student of the MOE-AAFC Ph.D Research Program

On December 19, 2007, AAFC's International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB) organized a farewell for Dr. Aizheng Liang at the Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre (ECORC). Dr. Liang is the first Chinese student of the MOE-AAFC Ph.D Research Program to finish her oneyear training on conservation tillage with Dr. Neil McLaughlin at ECORC. Dr. Aizhen Liang looked back over her training year in Canada and expressed her appreciation for its contribution to her Ph.D thesis. She completed the research project and indicated that she will keep in touch with Dr. McLaughlin in her further research. Dr. Yvon Martel had warm words for Dr. Liang and reaffirmed that the MOE-AAFC Ph.D Research Program is an important one for Canada and China S&T Cooperation.

More than 20 people took part in this farewell meeting, including Dr. Changfeng Jiao, First Secretary of the Education Office of the Chinese Embassy in Canada. He spoke highly of the progress achieved through this program.

Group Photo: Farewell meeting attendees - Dr. Yvon Martel (AAFC), Ms. Aizhen Liang (the honoured 2006 MOE-AAFC PhD student), Mr. Changfeng Jiao (Education Office, Chinese embassy), Dr. Vern Burrows (AAFC); Back row (from left): Dr. Xiaoyang Zhu (AAFC), Dr. Bao-Luo Ma (AAFC), Dr. Malcolm Morrison (AAFC), Mr. Ji-Rui Wang (2006 MOE-AAFC PhD student), Dr. George Fedak (AAFC), Ms. Yuanying Peng (2007 MOE-AAFC PhD student), Dr. Bin Liu (AAFC Postdoctoral fellow), Mr. Baoping Zhao (2007 MOE-AAFC PhD student), Dr. Souleymane Toure (AAFC), Dr. Kalima Mwange (AAFC), Ms. Yan Shen (2007 MOA-AAFC PhD student), Dr. Neil McLaughlin (AAFC), Dr. Joe Zhou (AAFC), Dr. James Tambong (AAFC), Ms. Hongji Zhang (2007 MOE-AAFC PhD student), Dr. Guowang Qiu (Chinese postdoctoral fellow).

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Ongoing Effective Collaboration with Brazil University

An arrangement signed in 2000 with the Universidade Estadual de Maringá was renewed on January 8, 2008. This academic exchange arrangement establishes a framework to facilitate research, especially in dairy livestock as well as swine nutrition and reproduction. So far, this arrangement has allowed Dr. Hélène Petit to supervise several Ph.D. and postdoctoral students as well as host a professor for a year.

Furthermore, these activities have generated several scientific papers. This is the third arrangement between AAFC and Brazil universities.

At the government level, discussions are ongoing between Canada and Brazil to sign a treaty on science, technology and innovation in the near future, one similar to what has been done with India (2005) and China (2007).

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Call for Expert Evaluators on Biofuels and Bioproducts

The Biotechnology Directorate of the European 7th Framework Programme (FP7) is actively seeking senior scientists interested in becoming expertevaluators.

If you are interested in being part of this process, please submit your application, accompanied by a brief resume and a list of keywords describing your areas of expertise (maximum 100 characters), to the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau (ISCB).

Once an expert-evaluator is identified, that person is notified directly by the European Commission Research Directorate and given an access code and electronic address where projects up for evaluation are placed. Following this first stage of evaluation, a panel meeting, to which the expert-evaluator is invited, is usually held over a period of a few days in Brussels. Besides giving participants a chance to build contacts with their peers in the European scientific community, this event also provides them with an excellent opportunity to learn more about the FP7. Closer cooperation between the European Commission Biotechnology Research Directorate and the AAFC Agricultural Bioproducts Innovation Program (ABIP) will offer new opportunities for scientific cooperation between Canada and the European Union.

For further information, visit the main FP7 Web site.

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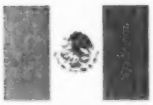
Visit to ISCB: Dr. Yi Fang, CEO of a China-Canada Agriculture Co-operation Project

On January 9, 2008, Dr. Yi Fang, CEO of the China-Canada Agriculture Cooperation Project in Nanhui, Shanghai, China, visited the International Scientific Co-operation Bureau (ISCB). Dr. Fang is a Canadian citizen and runs a Sino-Canada Agricultural International R&D Centre in the Nanhui District of Shanghai, as well as the Shanghai Jiamai Agricultural Technology Service Co. Ltd. He has helped to promote the innovation agenda in agriculture between China and Canada over the past two years.

Dr. Joe Zhou, Dr. Johanne Boisvert, Dr. Yi Fang and Mr. Shan He

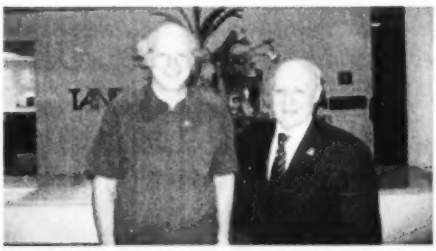
Contact: Dr. Joe Zhou (Joe.Zhou@agr.gc.ca)



Canadian Innovation in Mexico

On January 18, 2008, Charles Vincent, Ph.D, of the Horticulture Research and Development Centre in Saint-Jean-sur to meet with Gustavo Perez Bustamante, President of Insumos Agropecuarios Aries S.A. de C.V. This meeting was a preliminary step towards the approval of Virosoft CP4 in Mexico. Virosoft CP4 is a viral insecticide approved for use in Canada and the United States against codling moth, Cydia pomonella. This viral insecticide, the first to be approved in Canada for agricultural applications, came out of a partnership program (MII) jointly launched in 1997 by Biotepp Inc. and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Virosoft CP4 is produced in Quebec in Cap Chat, leading to the creation of many high value-added jobs in lower Gaspé.

From January 17 to the 26, 2008, Charles Vincent was working with Matin Aluja, Ph.D, (Instituto de Ecologia) and Tracy Leskey, Ph.D, (USDA-ARS, Kerneysville, WVA) in Veracruz on a book titled "Managing Tree Fruit Pests Biorationally: The Long Path from Speciation to Conscientious Profits," to be published in 2008 by CABI, an international publisher in science, based in England.



Dr. Charles Vincent. and Dr. Yvon Martel

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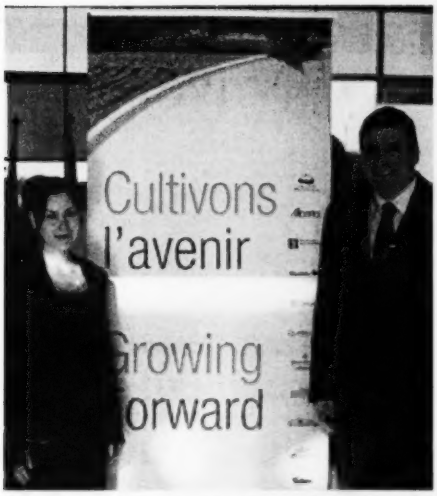
Youth Are Interested in Innovation and International Cooperation: This is la relève

Mr. Christian Paradis, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada visited the Food Research and Development Centre in Saint-Hyacinthe, on January 3rd, 2007. During his visit Mr. Paradis noted with interest that graduate students are choosing to share their expertise with AAFC by undertaking their internships with various departmental teams and also by choosing to begin their professional career with the Department. "This really shows how we are growing forward, this is "la relève" " he stated.

Mrs. Lyna Guilbault is a good example. Masters student at the Administration Faculty of Laval University, she intends to specialize in innovations marketing. Lyna has been working with the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau in the Saint-Hyacinthe Office for the last year.



Mrs. Lyna Guilbault and the Honourable Christian Paradis

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Call for Proposals: International Research Chairs Initiative

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canada Research Chairs Program are launching an initiative to pair leading researchers from Canadian universities with those in developing countries to tackle issues of mutual concern. Each team will receive up to $1 million over five years to address key development challenges while mentoring a new generation of scholars and practitioners.

The International Research Chairs Initiative will support the creation of up to five IDRC Research Chairs based at universities in the developing world. Each Chair will define a five-year research program in collaboration with an existing Canada Research Chair holder.

Letters of intent will be received until March 3, 2008.

For more information please visit the International Research Chairs Initiative website.

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